

# The Liturgy of the Eucharist

## Preparation of the Gifts, the Eucharistic Prayer

After the Liturgy of the Word, we celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

### 1. The Preparation of the Gifts

begins with the collection of money and for the needs of the Church. Members of the assembly bring forward the hosts and wine to the altar. They are called gift bearers. They represent our community bringing not only the gifts of bread and wine but also our prayers and daily lives for the past week. Then the collection of money is brought forward by the ushers.



The preparation of the gifts continues with setting the table and the priest preparing the bread and wine to be consecrated or blessed. The bread and wine are a sacrifice which will become the Body and Blood of Christ.

The priest asks us to pray that God may accept our sacrifice. We respond, “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.”

Then the priest says a prayer over the offerings.

### 2. The Eucharistic Prayer

is a special prayer of thanksgiving and sacrifice which is a dialogue between the priest and the people. We praise God as we begin the prayer by saying or singing, “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.”

The priest calls down the Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. He makes the Sign of the Cross over the bread and wine. He prays also for us to change as well and serve Christ in the world.



We hear the story of the Last Supper and witness the sacrifice of Jesus as the bread and wine are consecrated. The priest says, “The mystery of faith.”

We proclaim words to remember Christ and that he will return at the end of time.

We continue our prayer with remembering those who serve the Church, those who have died, and the saints.

We conclude the Eucharistic Prayer by offering it to the Father through the Son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

The priest holds up the paten with the Body of Christ and the chalice with the Blood of Christ and says,

“Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor is yours, forever and ever.”

We say, “Amen.”

